

Response to invitation



Complementary & Natural
Healthcare Council

28 July 2008

Dear Barry

Thank you for your recent email inviting CNHC to attend a meeting which you are organising apparently to discuss regulatory issues in complementary health care.

Having discussed your invitation with my colleagues, I set out our position below.

As you know CNHC emanated from the work undertaken by the Federal Working Group established by the Foundation for Integrated Health, during 2007. This group, as you are aware, had representation from the Department of Health, who have subsequently provided certain 'start-up' monies for CNHC as a measure of good faith in our activities. This support was also evidenced by the presence of the Health Minister at the launch of CNHC in March of this year, who wished us well in our work.

We are therefore clear that our Council is the one mandated to establish a credible voluntary regulatory body for all those complementary healthcare professions who do not seek statutory regulation. All our activity is focused on this objective.

We are aware of a number of other initiatives in this field and would agree with you that this makes things actually and potentially confusing for the public. We therefore welcome approaches from other bodies, including GRCCT, who wish to discuss with us, how their regulatory work can feed into our activity, in order to reduce public uncertainty and potential confusion. Indeed, we are already in such discussions with a number of groups.

In the interests of transparency, it might be helpful for you to know that we will be putting this letter on to our web site, in order that practitioners can fully understand our position.

Yours sincerely

Maggy

Maggy Wallace
CoChair CNHC

GRCCT Reply

**The General Regulatory Council For
Complementary Therapies**



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01.08.08

Dear Maggie,

Re: Meeting 21st August 2008

Thank you for agreeing to keep our communication in the public domain.

As you are well aware groups representing in excess of 70% of the practitioners of Complementary Medicine to be regulated in the United Kingdom were excluded from most of the meetings of the Federal Working Group. These groups were ejected when they announced that their therapies did not consider the regulatory model on which the CNHC is based to be fit for purpose and would not be supporting it.

This statistically very large group went on to establish a strongly supported regulator in the form of the General Regulatory Council for Complementary Therapies (GRCCT). A well respected regulator established by the industry itself without the necessity for external sponsorship or funding.

I was personally in attendance at both meetings of the Federal Working Group at which observers from the Department of Health were present. There was no observation by the Department of Health after the majority sector lead bodies had been excluded.

The Department of Health stated that it would like to see only one regulator for complementary therapies in the United Kingdom; the GRCCT was formed in 2007 in acknowledgement of this request. GRCCT was established in accordance with the government's recommendations and requirements, and with the best wishes for our endeavors from HRH the Prince of Wales. In any voluntary process, but especially in regulation, the 'mandate' must come from those to be regulated, it cannot be imposed.

Whilst acknowledging that some practitioners from the therapies of Bowen Technique (a register of some 800 practitioners), some members of the General Council for Massage Therapy (a register of some 700 practitioners), and some Nutrition Therapists (a register of 1500 practitioners) are offering to support their Chairs, former Chairs and Lay representatives, who between them occupy 4 of the 9 seats on your CNHC Board; this does not constitute significant level of support from an industry in excess of 100,000 practitioners.

Having held a Launch on 31st March 2008 at which Ben Bradshaw MP accepted the invitation to speak, CNHC announced on 18th July 2008 that (for reasons as yet undisclosed) it would be unable to even begin offering a regulatory process to the three therapies until at the earliest January 2009. As such we have no option but to consider the CNHC to be a proposed regulatory process rather than a functioning regulator.

The primary purpose of any regulator is protection of the public via an appropriate, profession supported regulatory structure. As the existing, profession supported regulator with the acknowledgement and support of organisations representing more than 60,000 practitioners we had hoped that you would join with the two other organisations proposing additional regulatory processes in accepting the invitation to come and talk.

I do hope you and your colleagues will reconsider.

Kind regards,



Barry 'BJ' Tanner
Project Manager

Cc Maggie Dunn CoChair CNHC
Cc Susan Elizabeth Part Time CEO/Registrar CNHC